TIMES-VIRGINIAN

*In the Heart of Virginia's Dark Tobacco Belt*

Appomattox, Virginia

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Mr. and Mrs. Calvin Robinson ...... *Editors and Publishers*

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# EDITORIAL OPINION

## ARE YOU GROWING OLD

Somerset Maughan, just turned 80, says he has written his last line and proposes "to begin living." This does not, perhaps, mean precisely what it says. Maugham would be the first to admit that he has lived, even while writing. His design all along, as he explained in "The Summing Up" was to make writing "an essential element" in his life, which "would include all the other activities proper to man."

But, as he went on to make clear in that same summing up, another kind of living becomes possible when one grows old. "I look forward to old age without dismay," he wrote in that first book published 16 years ago. "The young man turns away from it with horror because he thinks that when he reaches it, he will still yearn for the things that gave variety and gusto to his youth. He is mistaken.

"Old age, paradoxical as it may sound, has more time. When I was young I was amazed at Plutarch's statement that the elder Cato began at the age of 80 to learn Greek. I am amazed no longer. Old age is ready to undertake tasks that youth shirked because they would take too long."

Maugham, and those who are 80 or more with him, are ready to begin the kind of living that takes time. Time to prepare for it, time to perform. Eighty is an age for projects, plainly. For projects a younger man has been rushed or intimidated out of. Much joy with those projects to Somerset Maugham and all of his generation who are ready now to undertake long tasks!

## THE PRICE TAG

(Contributed)

A bulletin issued by the American Economic Foundation observed that one of America's most important economic inventions (inventor unknown) was the idea of putting a price tag on an article displayed in a store and **meaning it.**

In most of the rest of the world, this one-price system of conducting retail business doesn't exist. The asking price involves enormous mark-ups, by American standards, and is regarded by the informed as simply a starting point for a bargaining contest. No one will ever know how many millions of dollars unwary American tourists have lost because they assumed the first price was the real and final price.

What have been the benefits of our one-price system, with that price printed clearly on a tag? The bulletin described them this way "American stores with their low 'real' prices sell far more goods.

"Their profits come in 'fast nickels' instead of 'slow dimes.'

"With no time out for haggling over each sale, the store clerks can handle a much larger number of transactions and thus justify better salaries for themselves.

"So at the end of the year, everyone is happy: the customer has gotten better values, the clerk has gotten better pay, and the owners of the store have gotten better earnings."

The price tag is the symbol, repeated billions of times, of a system of mass distribution which makes our living standards possible.

The Shetland Islands are off the coast of Scotland.

## IT'S ALL QUITE CUSTOMARY

(Wall Street Journal)

American culture, like American dollars, is pretty successful in getting around the world. And we are happy to note that at least some of our quaint customs are highly thought of in other lands.

Teen-agers in a nursing school in Karachi, Pakistan, were asked recently to select for viewing a motion picture which would be "helpful to their cultural development." A United Nations report says that the unanimous choice was "How To Marry A Millionaire."

Now Americans can't all marry millionaires for there just aren't enough to go around, even in Texas. But it certainly is customary to try, and there is no question that if a girl is successful it can do a lot for her culture.

Unhappily, some other American customs aren't nearly as well understood as trying for a rich husband. Farmers in Southern Japan are complaining loudly that whenever our paratroopers make practice jumps they manage always to land right in the watermelon patch. This habit, they say, may be excellent for precision and accuracy but it hardly helps the watermelons. The paratroopers plug'em right in the fields and the farmers are short some 5,000 pounds with the season just under way.

We confess to some mixed emotions about this. The farmers certainly deserve to be paid for the stolen watermelons and we hope there is enough stretch in the foreign-aid bill to take care of them. But what do they expect young Americans to do when they find themselves right in the middle of a juicy watermelon patch?

One suggestion to end the trouble is for the commissary sergeants to serve all the watermelon they can hold at mealtimes. This overlooks the adventure attached to watermelon swiping; and paratroopers grounded during the season. But this disregards the fact that they already know where the watermelon patches are.

We haven't much confidence in any such suggestions; the habit of stealing watermelons is quite as much a part of America's culture as the hope of young ladies for a well-to-do spouse. Both are old, established customs and it would be difficult to change either one, even if a person were so inclined. We are quite convinced, for instance, that the only way to stop watermelon swiping is to stop growing small boys.

## COUNCIL OF EVANSTON

(Washington Post)

Some leading churchmen have described the Second Assembly of the World Council of Churches which convenes in Evanston, Ill., today, as "the greatest event in Protestantism since Martin Luther." Whether or not their superlative proves justified, the meeting should be worthy of attention far beyond the membership of the Council, which represents 178 million Protestant and Orthodox Christians in 161 denominations. More than 400 reporters will cover the meeting, including 200 from the secular press in North America. Two Washington bishops will have important roles—Bishop G. Bromley Oxnam, American copresident of the World Council, and the Right Rev. Angus Dun, a member of the Central Committee of the Council.

The Council's stand on communism and social issues will have widespread repercussions. Of greater significance, however, will be its action on a proposed doctrinal statement. Council leaders believe Christianity has reached a crossroads, that it must unite and meet the forces of irreligion as a solid phalanx, or go down before "creeping secularism" and dynamic communism. It is said that interdenomnational union, to be effective, must be organic, disciplined, bound by hoops of theological accord. The doctrinal statement is an attempt to provide the theological wherewithal.

Some of its feature have been widely attacked, however, by religious liberals. They charge its neo-orthodoxy is equivalent to fundamentalism, its criticism of humanism an assault on human dignity, its implication that society cannot continue to progress, a blow at democracy. They see in it an attempt to establish a world-wide Protestant creed, which if successful, could lead to a Protestant pope and limit religious liberty.

On the other hand the statement's supporters believe it will powerfully persuade whoever reads its 20,000 words that Christ, indeed, is "the hope of the world." The debate on the statement will bring into collision two historic Christian movements—American religious activism and European orthodoxy, the one this-worldly and optimistic, the other concerned with heaven an ddoubtful about man's ability to improve his state. If the outcome is only more controversy, the long-range significance of the gathering may prove to be minor. But if it extends and buttresses the current revival of religious influences, it can give powerful underpining to Western civilization.

## ATOMIC SUBMARINE

(Washington Evening Star)

Another striking measure of the great potentialities of the U. S. S. Nautilus, the world's first nuclear submarine, can be found in the report just submitted to the Senate and House by the Joint Congressional Committee on Atomic Energy.

The report, recommending a series of changes in the Atomic Energy Act of 1946, does not deal at length with the Nautilus itself. But it says enough about the land-based prototype of the vessel's nuclear engine to make clear that our Navy is acquiring truly formidable and unprecedented new strength for undersea warfare—offensive and defensive.

For the prototype, according to the report, "has already produced more than enough power to send an atomic submarine around the world, fully submerged and at full speed." This means that the engine installed in the Nautilus—which was launched some months ago—can do the same thing. It means, in short, the advent of a type of submersible that has never existed before—one that can travel very fast for thousands of miles on relatively little fuel, and all the while stay hidden beneath the sea without having to surface periodically to recharge batteries or take in fresh air.

So the Navy, when it has the Nautilus in full operation (and the Nautilus is to be supplemented in time with the Sea Wolf and other atomic submarines), will have additional striking power of a unique kind— extraordinarily swift and elusive, and far in advance of what can be unleashed by conventional submersibles.

As a result, our Nation will be that much more secure. For the Soviet Union has not yet equipped itself with anything like the Nautilus, and it may not be able to do so for a long time to come. To that extent, therefore, we have a superiority that should stand us in good stead against the threat of the Kremlin's hundreds of conventional submarines.

## THESE ARE HEROES

(Cumberland Evening Times)

The other day a touching little drama was enacted in the Ohio countryside. Two aging electrical linemen—the men who fix your power lines when they go down—were high on the poles repairing the ravages of a storm. Suddenly, tragedy struck. One of the men was hit by a loose, swining line charged with nearly 7000 volts of electricity. He was electrocuted. The other, seeing the accident, climbed despartely upward to where his friend's body dangled. He tried unsuccessfully to administer artificial respiration. The men had been inesparable companions at work for 30 years. It was not the first time trouble had hit them but it was the first time their luck didn't hold. They had labored together through long years, battling storms and their aftermath, risking their lives at great heights. Why?

So you, with hardly a thought could flick a switch in your home and have light, or television, or ice cubes, or any of the countless other things power brings. While they worked, these men may or may not have thought of themselves as heroes of a sort. Nevertheless, they were. And the largely unconscious heroism their efforts symbolized is something you can find again and again in the complex pattern of our modern industrial living. The men who run the trains and buses and streetcars seven days a week in any weather; the people who bring all kinds of services to your door; the men who get out and repave a busy street from midnight till dawn so your passage won't be interrupted the men who do the dirty, dangerous jobs in steel mills and other basic industries, they are heroes all.

Many may not like what they are doing, may gripe about it, and wish they were somewhere else. But the important thing is: they stay on the job, see it through no matter how distasteful. Without them, without their faithful performance day in and day out, this life we lead would be reduced to a chaotic shambles in a matter of hours. Let us offer tribute to the elderly lineman who met sudden death atop a high pole in Ohio and in so doing give recognition at the same time to the unconscious heroism which shows itself in big and little ways all over this land every day that passes.

## HOPE SPRINGS ETERNAL

(The Detroit Free Press)

A University of Michigan inquiry into consumer finances (and who is not a consumer?) has discovered that more than a third of those now in debt are confident they'll have their obligations cleared up within nine months.

We think the U. of M. investigation might as well have skipped this part of their work. Everything to be said about such expectations was adequately and enduringly dealt with more than two centuries ago when Alexander Pope was making his survey of human foibles.

The way Pope put it was: "Hope springs eternal in the human breast;"

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## OTTMER MERGENTHALER

(The Birmingham Post-Herald)

The line of type you are looking at now was composed in a matter of seconds, thanks to the inventive genius of a man born 100 years ago.

His name was Ottmer Mergenthaler. He was a German emmigrant who landed in Baltimore in 1872 with $30 in his pocket and wheels in his head. He invented the Linotype, a typecasting machine which revolutionized printing.

Mergenthaler did for printing what television has done for McCarthy or the movies for Marilyn Monroe—depending on your viewpoint. Good or bad, it comes in faster. Before Mergenthaler, every letter had to be picked up by hand and placed in position to form the words. Mergenthaler's device not only picks out the letters but molds them into type metal and snugs them into line the exact width of the desired column.

No one can begin to imagine how many more millions of words have been loosed upon a defenseless world since the Linotype speeded the process. It can set them all—beautifully and imperishably—as fast as a man can turn them out. from the Gettysburg Address to a Communist manifesto.

Sometimes it's a pity, but most of the time, thank goodness, it's for enlightenment and therefore a blessing for mankind. To that end we hail the brilliant clockmaker's apprentice who finally put the Gutenburg show on the road.

## MENTAL FATIGUE

(Rockford Morning Star)

The British air ministry, after patient research, has come up with an explanation of the disasters which forced the British air lines to ground all jet-engined Comets. The answer is the sime one of mental fatigue.

Extreme internal pressures are necessary to support life in the cabins of the Comets at the altitudes of 40,000 feet, where they fly most economically and fastest. The pressure is many times that required for a plane operating at 30,000 feet.

When a Comet takes off, pressure is built up until the skin of the fuselage is bellied out like a balloon. On landing, there is a quick contraction of the skin. For a time the metal can take it. Then it simply blows out. The British research team found that about 9,000 weeks of operation brings the danger point.

So it seems to be up to the metallurgists to determine whether man's flying can keep up with his ability to develop fast engines. It obviously would be too costly to re-skin a passenger liner every month to keep within the safety deadline.

Until the metallurgists report, we may have to keep bumping along at 400 miles an hour at 20,000 feet and give up temporarily any dreams of interplanetary travel.

## ELEPHANT SURPLUS

(Milwaukee Journal)

It's not only the American farmer who is worried about falling prices. If it's any comfort to either the farmers or the Congressmen, things are tough all over. A report just in from India says that low stock prices have put elephants in the bear market. Elephants that used to bring $600 to $800 on the hoof now are bringing only $300 to $400. It doesn't pay to feed them.

Maharajas, pressed for money because an unfeeling government has cut back their incomes, have been selling off their elephants. The bejeweled potentates have been placed on most meager rations by the Indian government—which allows one of them more than "$6,000 a year in personal expenses."

There's obviously room in here for an up and coming politico with a good price support program to help keep the maharajas in rupees and create a bigger elephant surplus.

The Empire State Building has 102 stories (1,250 ft.) high.

Fire destroyed 530 buildings in New York City in 1835.

*Richard D. Robinson*

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# Farm Talent Contest Here Friday, August 27th.

A Farm Talent Round-up Contest, elections of local board and Farm Home Advisory Committee members, and reports on cooperative service and operations for the 1953-54 year, will be among the features of the annual Southern States Membership meeting for the Appomattox area to be held at 8:00 P. M., August 27, at the American Legion Hall, Appomattox, Va.

A Brunswick Stew will be held at ...0 P. M., EST, preceding the business meeting. All farm people and patrons should contact Coleman's Feed & Seed Store for their meal tickets. Door prizees will be given.

The Farm Talent Round-Up Contest, which is open to amateurs 12 years of age and over will offer an opportunity to the winning act at the local meeting to try out for the Original Amateur Hour Television Show in New York. The contest is open to amateurs who are members of the immediate families of all farm people and all Southern States patrons. Employees of Cooperative Service Agencies and Southern States Cooperative and their immediate families are not eligible. The number of persons in any one act is limited to six.

The contest will be sponsored jointly by Coleman's Feed & Seed Store and Southern States Cooperative, with Original Amateur Hour cooperating. About 450 similar contests will be held throughout the operating territory of Southern States Cooperative within the next few months.

The winning local act will be given an all-expense paid trip to a district elimination contest in October where it will compete with winning acts from other communities. It will also receive a $5.00 award and a blue ribbon. The second place winner at the local level will receive a $3.00 award and a red ribbon, while the third place act will be given a $1.00 prize and a white ribbon.

The two winners at each of nine district elimination contests will be given an all-expense trip to Southern States 31st annual stockholders meeting in Richmond, Va., November 11 to compete in the final contest.

The winning act at Richmond will be given an all-expense paid trip to New York where the act will appear with Ted Mack on the Original Amateur Hour Television Show, and $100 in cash and a blue ribbon.

... B. Wheeler, of Spout Spring will serve as chairman of the local meeting. The Rev. L. P. Brown will give the invocation. There will be music by Sonny Martin, Spout Spring.

A report on local operations and services will be given by W. T. Coleman, manager of Coleman's Feed and Seed Store. Southern States District Manager, R. R. Feagans will report on over-all Southern States operations for the year ended last June 30.

Nominees for the local Southern States advisory board for the Appomattox area are: Frank Mabley, ... Barger, Abbitt Coleman and ... Webb, all of Appomattox.

Nominees for the Farm Home Advisory Committee are: Mrs. R. C. Morton and Mrs. E. D. Cheatham, both of Spout Spring; Mrs. Walter Phelps, Gladstone, and Mrs. E. A. Covington, Appomattox. Other nominations may be made from the floor.

Members of the advisory board whose terms expire this year are W. E. Inge and I. B. Wheeler.

Members of the Farm Home Advisory Committee whose terms expire this year are Mrs. Preston Coleman and Mrs. Percy Garrette.

Members of the general committees assisting with the meeting are: Farm Talent Round-Up Committee, Billy Wheeler, chairman; W. T. Coleman, Mrs. J. A. Tweedy, Mrs. Abbitt Coleman, and Wilson Scruggs. Foods Committee, W. T. Coleman, general chairman. Procurement and serving, Mrs. Carter Martin, W. E. Inge, Mrs. J. A. Tweedy, Mrs. Preston Coleman and Mrs. Percy Garrette, and Mrs. Billy Wheeler. Facilities and Clean-Up, J. L. Torrence, David M. Wood, and W. E. Inge. Meal tickets, Bill Stern, and Fred Wooldridge.Greeting committee, J. W. Harvey, Mrs. I. B. Wheeler, E. W. Carson and Mrs. W T Coleman.

Carl Akeley, the American explorer, was buried on Mount Mikeno in Belgian Congo, Africa.

The famous Homestake mine is located at Lead City, S. D., and produces gold.

## INSECT SURVEY WORK CONTINUED

Insect pests in stored grain in Virginia are increasing.

Arthur P. Morris, associate entomologist at VPI, says grain that has been in storage for quite a while is likely to be infested, and new grain crops in storage soon will be if the proper precautions are not taken at time of storage. All stored grain should be checked often for insect infestations, and control measures should be begun as soon as even light infestations are present.

A USDA publication "Stored Grain Pests," will give you tips on control. Ask your county agent for a free copy.

Other current highlights in the pest world:

Bats in dwellings are causing concern in widely separted places in the state. Sometimes bats are responsible for infestations of bedbugs in the dwelling they inhabit. For control tips on either of the two pests, ask your county agent for USDA Leaflet 109, "Eliminating Bats from Buildings," or USDA Leaflet 337, "Bedbugs - How to Control Them."

The common nuisance, the housefly, continues to be a nuisance. Ask for "Fly Control With Poisoned Bait," VPI's Agricultural Extension Service Circular 619.

Other printed aids in combating the insect world are: "Getting Rid of Bees, Wasps, and Hornets," and "Ants in the Home and Garden."

## MAJOR PROBLEMS FACE DAIRY INDUSTRY

Four major problems currently face the dairy industry, according to agricultural economists at VPI.

First they list the production cost problem. There is little relief in sight for the cost-price squeeze in which dairymen are currently caught. The economists say that all dairymen should try to find ways to reduce production costs.

The butterfat problem is all too familiar to the dairyman. The decline in the relative demand for butterfat is due to several factors. The increased competition of vegetable fats with butter has been hard to meet. Added to this is the growing competition of vegetable fats with butterfat in frozen desserts, etc. Somehow, the economists say, butterfat must be made to compete effectively with the other fats.

Another problem is that of diverted acres. Farmers were asked this year to divert some 20,000,000 acres of land previously in wheat, cotton and corn. A big question is, how many of these acres will become the base for additional dairy production?

The fourth problem deals with marketing costs. Many dairymen, and consumers as well, feel that costs of processing and marketing dairy products should be reduced. Certainly every effort should be made to reduce costs here as in production, the economists say. But distributors, too, have problems. One of these is the continuous pressure to increase wages.

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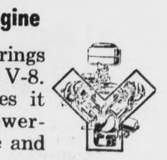

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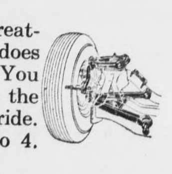

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